

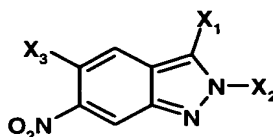
Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the Claims:

What is claimed is:

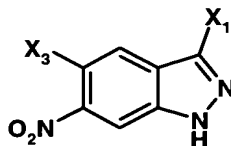
1. (Original) A process for preparing a compound of formula (R),



(R)

comprising the step of :

reacting a compound of formula (Q)



(Q)

with an alkylating agent,

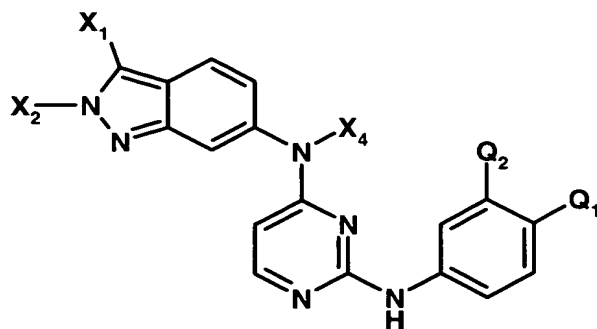
wherein

X₁ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ haloalkyl, or C₁-C₄ hydroxyalkyl;

X₂ is C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ haloalkyl, or aralkyl; and

X₃ is hydrogen or halogen.

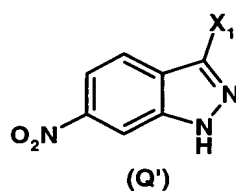
2. (Original) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I)



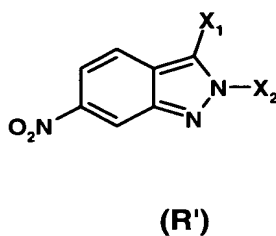
(I)

comprising the step of:

reacting a compound of formula (Q')



with an alkylating agent to prepare a compound of formula (R'),



wherein:

X₁ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄ alkyl;

X₂ is C₁-C₄ alkyl or benzyl;

X₄ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄ alkyl;

Q₁ is A¹ or A²;

Q₂ is A¹ when Q₁ is A² and Q₂ is A² when Q₁ is A¹;

wherein

A¹ is hydrogen, halogen, C₁-C₃ alkyl, C₁-C₃ haloalkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, and

A² is the group defined by -(Z)_m-(Z¹)-(Z²), wherein

Z is C(R')(R''), where R' and R'' are independently selected from -H or C₁-C₄ alkyl, or R' and R'' together with the carbon to which they are attached form a C₃-C₇ cycloalkyl group and m is 0, 1, 2, or 3;

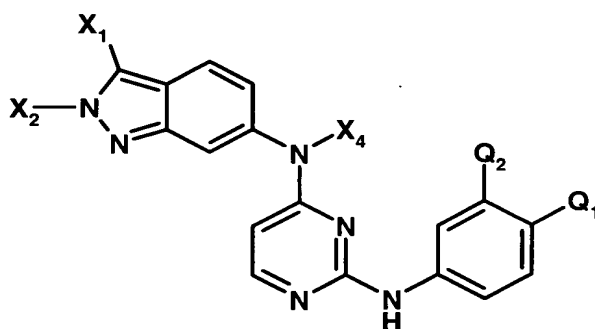
Z¹ is S(O)₂, S(O), or C(O); and

Z² is C₁-C₄ alkyl, NR¹R², aryl, arylamino, aralkyl, aralkoxy, or heteroaryl,

R¹ and R² are each independently selected from hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₃-C₇ cycloalkyl, -S(O)₂R³, and -C(O)R³; and

R³ is C₁-C₄ alkyl or C₃-C₇ cycloalkyl.

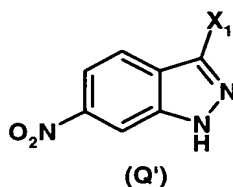
3. (Original) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I)



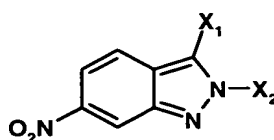
(I)

comprising the steps of:

(i) reacting a compound of formula (Q')



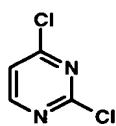
with an alkylating agent to prepare a compound of formula (R'),



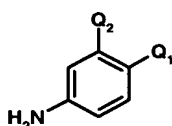
(R')

; and

(ii) converting the compound of formula (R') to the compound of formula (I), said converting step comprising serial condensation with a compound of formula (A') and then a compound of formula (A'')



(A')



(A'') ,

wherein:

X₁ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄ alkyl;

X₂ is C₁-C₄ alkyl or benzyl;

X₄ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄ alkyl;

Q₁ is A¹ or A²;

Q₂ is A¹ when Q₁ is A² and Q₂ is A² when Q₁ is A¹;

wherein

A¹ is hydrogen, halogen, C₁-C₃ alkyl, C₁-C₃ haloalkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, and

A² is the group defined by -(Z)_m-(Z¹)-(Z²), wherein

Z is C(R')(R''), where R' and R'' are independently selected from -H or C₁-C₄ alkyl, or R' and R'' together with the carbon to which they are attached form a C₃-C₇ cycloalkyl group and m is 0, 1, 2, or 3;

Z¹ is S(O)₂, S(O), or C(O); and

Z² is C₁-C₄ alkyl, NR¹R², aryl, arylamino, aralkyl, aralkoxy, or heteroaryl,

R^1 and R^2 are each independently selected from hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_7 cycloalkyl, $-S(O)_2R^3$, and $-C(O)R^3$; and
 R^3 is C_1 - C_4 alkyl or C_3 - C_7 cycloalkyl.